

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
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Letter of Protest
Docket No. 2020-229-E

Date: * 04/01/2021

Name * Jestine Deepe

Mailing Address * _____

City, State Zip * Charleston SC Phone * _____

E-mail _____

I am a customer of Dominion Energy and an owner of a 6kW solar system.

Please see attached for statement - sorry for the length but I would like the commission to understand fully the situation and impact this proposed tariff would have on our family. I feel there are more less penalizing ways to approach solar in SC. If we want to move towards a carbon neutral future energy utilities will have to work with stakeholders to get creative and embrace the future of non-renewable energy. Thank you for taking the time to read.

I did give my testimony and this statement is an extension of that. 3 minutes was not nearly enough to express my grievance however I do understand there were several hundred testimonies to hear. I appreciate the commission hearing everyone out.

Signature Required: J Deepe 04/01/21

LETTER OF PROTEST DOCKET: 2020-229-E

Hi, my name is Jestine Deepe and I was born and raised in SC and have now lived in Charleston for over 20 years. I am a resident of James Island and Dominion Energy Customer. I do not work for a solar company nor am I affiliated with one. I am a working mother of 3-year-old twins. I have my master's degree in environmental science from the College of Charleston and my BS in Biology. My background is in drinking water and wastewater treatment and I currently work as the Lab Director at Mount Pleasant Waterworks. As a sister utility worker, I have a vested interest in the conservation of our finite natural resources. I work every day to educate and encourage our customers and future customers of this importance. But today I am going to speak to you as a customer of Dominion and how this proposal will affect me, my family and SC economy.

I must say I never thought when I signed up for solar that we would be targeted and potentially penalized for trying to do something good for the environment. When we signed our solar contract, we were investing in 25 years of savings – not 5 years, not 10 years. The average useful life of a solar system is about 20-25 years. Imagine buying a car, one you would plan to drive for a good 15 years, pay it off in 5 years, then you are told you can no longer drive the car, but you still must pay property tax. You cannot sell it because no one is in the market for a car anymore. You are paying for something you can no longer use.

Over the past 2 years, our system has produced about 37% of our energy demand which equates to about an average of \$55-\$60 of savings each month. The Dominion proposal would slash our savings dramatically as they plan to raise solar customers basic facilities charge by \$10 per month as well as tack on a subscription fee of \$5.40 per kwh. Since our system is 6.38 kW which would come to about \$40 in subscription fees a month. Together we would be looking at an extra \$50 a month in fees, EVEN IF WE DON'T PRODUCE A SINGLE KWH OF POWER FROM OUR SOLAR. This is only the calculated costs we see as this additional \$50 is before the ToU calculation comes into effect which is a higher rate per kWh JUST FOR SOLAR USERS which is guaranteed to increase on top of the \$50 in fees.

These additional fees will not only negate any monthly savings, but it will also undoubtedly lead to me having to pay Dominion just to have my system. This is an infuriating prospect. We would have to cut the cord on our solar and decommission it because I will not be paying to have my solar. The intent was to save money.

Let me be very clear on this next point. Dominion in no way, shape, or form spends any time, money, or effort to maintain my system. I pay my fair share as a customer to use the grid and I always have a bill to pay at the end of the month. I am getting nowhere a \$0 bill each month much less getting a check from them for the energy I produce. I did not invest in solar to make money, I did it for the future of my family. If this proposal were to pass, no one would invest in solar which is what I imagine is the actual intent of this proposal to begin with.

Unless Dominion plans to pay me for loss of use of my system, nothing about this will make solar economical for my family and many other families in SC. The extra money I will send to the utility is money I am not able to save for my kid's college, my retirement and spend in the local economy – instead, it is going to a mega-utility that has no real evidence that my solar is creating more demand on their system. The research that is coming out is that solar generation is a net benefit to the utility and to the non-solar ratepayers. It is in their best interest to adapt and embrace.

Submitted by: Jestine Deepe, _____; Charleston, SC: _____

J Deepe 04/01/21